



Department of Justice

**United States Attorney Joseph H. Hogsett
Southern District of Indiana**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, June 24, 2013

<http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/ins/>

CONTACT: TIM HORTY

(317) 229-2409

tim.horty@usdoj.gov

U.S. ATTORNEY ANNOUNCES UPDATES ON TWO JACKSON COUNTY CASES

Hogsett says charges have been filed against Brownstown man, while Seymour defendant has petitioned to plead guilty in child pornography case

PRESS RELEASE

SEYMOUR – U.S. Attorney Joseph H. Hogsett announced updates in two Jackson County cases this afternoon, including new charges in an alleged marijuana distribution operation, as well as a petition to plead guilty in an ongoing child pornography prosecution.

“Working with our law enforcement partners in Jackson County, we are sending a message that we are united in our efforts to combat crime in this community,” Hogsett said. “It doesn’t matter if you are engaging in the trafficking of drugs, guns, or child pornography – you will be caught, and you will be held accountable.”

In the first case, Hogsett said that a grand jury has returned an indictment of Philip T. Nash, of Brownstown, alleging that he was found by local law enforcement to be in possession of 100 or more marijuana plants. According to court documents, law enforcement discovered the grow operation in late 2011, and the defendant has also been charged with possessing a Ruger LCP .380 caliber handgun as a drug trafficker. Hogsett thanked the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Indiana State Police, and the Jackson County Sheriff’s Department for their assistance in the investigation.

According to Assistant U.S. Attorney William L. McCoskey, who is prosecuting the case, Nash faces a minimum of 5 years and a maximum of 40 years in federal prison if he is convicted, as well as significant fines and years of federally-supervised release at the end of his prison term.

Hogsett also provided an update in the ongoing prosecution of Lance B. Grant, a/k/a Brandon Grant, who was charged in July 2012 with possessing child exploitation, as well as multiple counts of child exploitation related to the defendant’s alleged abuse of a minor female.

On June 17, the defendant appeared in federal court and entered a plea of guilty to those charges, and that plea was accepted by the court. Hogsett said that a sentencing hearing has been set for September 5, 2013, at 10:00am in Evansville.

According to Assistant U.S. Attorney Todd S. Shellenbarger, who is prosecuting the case for the government, Grant faces a maximum of 10 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine for the one count of possession of sexually explicit material involving minors. Grant also faces a maximum of 30 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine for each of the three counts of production of sexually explicit material involving a minor. Grant will be held in federal custody pending sentencing.

This prosecution comes as Hogsett has announced a comprehensive crackdown on child exploitation in Indiana. In January 2013, he launched "Operation Community Watch," which allows prosecutors and investigators to use cutting-edge techniques to identify and charge people in Hoosier communities who are engaged in the receipt and trafficking of child pornography materials. In this case, these efforts were facilitated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Cyber Crimes Task Force, based in Evansville.

This case was also brought as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse launched in May 2006 by the Department of Justice. Hogsett pointed out that in the last Project Safe Childhood reporting year, the Office prosecuted 52 defendants, an increase of 37% over the prior year, and 49 defendants were convicted and sentenced. These are all-time records for the Office. The Office conviction rate for PSC cases was 100%, a level it has been at since 1991.

The greatest measure of the PSC program's impact, however, is the identification and rescue of child victims of sexual exploitation and abuse. Over the last year, the U.S. Attorney's Office successfully identified more than 120 child victims, including minors in Indiana, numerous places in the United States, Canada, Switzerland, and other countries around the world.

Led nationally by United States Attorneys' Offices and the Criminal Division's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section (CEOS), Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as to identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.projectsafechildhood.gov.

An indictment is only a charge and is not evidence of guilt. A defendant is presumed innocent and is entitled to a fair trial at which the government must prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

###